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# Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 EUR-06 ISO-00 USIA-12 INR-10 CIAE-00

NSAE-00 /038 W
---------- 102873
R 210805Z MAY 74
FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2547
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMCONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 0365

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, OEXC, MZ
SUBJECT: DR. SIMIAO: LATEST PLANS; GUMO RUNNING INTO OPPOSITION

REF: A) STATE 101971; B) LOURENCO MARQUES 321;
C) LOURENCO MARQUES 332; D) STATE 99976;
E) LOURENCO MARQUES 335

1. SUMMARY: DR. JOANA SIMIAO HAD SUCCESSFUL VISIT IN NAMPULA AND PORTO AMELIA, EXPECTS VISIT MBABANE AND LISBON LATER IN WEEK. GUMO HAS RECOMMENDED WILLIAM GERARD POTT BE NEXT GOVERNOR GENERAL OF MOZAMBIQUE. SIMIAO AGREES TRIP TO US AROUND JUNE 15 WOULD BE PREMATURE. GUMO AND DR. SIMIAO COMING UNDER INCREASING CRITICISM FROM LEFT. END SUMMARY.

2. DR. JOANA SIMIAO CAME TO SEE ME MAY 18 AFTER RETURNING FROM VISIT TO NAMPULA AND PORTO AMELIA IN THE NORTH. SHE SEEMED SATISFIED WITH HER RECEPTION POINTING OUT THAT AS THESE CITIES ARE IN MACUA TRIBAL AREAS AND SHE HERSELF IS MACUA, SHE FELT RIGHT AT HOME (NOTE: EVEN THOUGH SHE NEEDED MACUA INTERPRETER TO TRANSLATE HER REMARKS) AND THE MACUAS HAD ACCEPTED HER AS THEIR POLITICAL LEADER. (NOTE: IF THIS IS TO BE TAKEN LITERALLY, IT WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT GAIN FOR HER, AS MACUAS MAKE UP ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF TOTAL MOZAMBIQUE POPULATION. HOWEVER, I SUSPECT A BIT OF HYPERBOLE).

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EM ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, SIMIAO WILL FLY TO MBABANE,

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SWAZILAND TO VISIT THE KING AT LATTER'S REQUEST. FOLLOWING
THIS, SHE EXPECTS FLY LISBON TO PRESENT COMPLIMENTS TO
MEMBERS OF NEW PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AND JUNTA.

4. DR. SIMIAO READILY AGREED THAT JUNE 15 NOT RPT NOT
OPPORTUNE FOR VISIT TO UNITED STATES, AGREEING THAT OFFICIAL
U.S. INVITATION MIGHT JEOPARDIZE HER POLITICAL POSITION,
AND MIGHT BE CONSTRUED AS U.S. ATTEMPT AT INTERFERENCE IN
RAPIDLY DEVELOPING LOCAL POLITICAL SCENE. I ASSURED HER WE
WOULD BE HAPPY REVIEW SITUATION SOMETIME LATER IF AND WHEN
POLITICAL CONDITIONS PERMIT.

5. I ALSO INFORMED DR. SIMIAO WE COULD NOT ADVISE HER ON
RELATIVE MODERATION OR REASONABLENESS OF FRELIMO LEADERS,
POINTING OUT WE HAVE HAD LITTLE CONTACT WITH THEM IN RECENT
YEARS. IN ANY EVENT, HER REQUEST HAS BEEN OVERTAKEN BY
PRESENT CONTACTS BETWEEN MOZAMBICAN EX-PRISONERS AND FRELIMO
LEADERS IN DAR ES SALAAM.

6. AMONG OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST, DR. SIMIAO BELIEVES
TOTAL INDEPENDENCE WOULD TAKE AT LEAST TWO YEARS TO ACHIEVE.
GUMO IS EMBARKING ON PROGRAM TO "MOZAMBICANIZE" AS MANY JOBS
AS POSSIBLE IN COMING MONTHS; IS RECOMMENDING WILLIAN GERARD
POTT, MULATTO LAWYER FROM BEIRA WHO HELPED DEFEND MACUTI
PRIESTS TWO YEARS AGO, BE APPOINTED NEXT GOVERNOR GENERAL.

7. COMMENT: DR. SIMIAO SEEMED TIRED AND SLIGHTLY ON DEFENSIVE
IN DISCUSSING FAVORABLE RECEPTION SHE CLAIMED TO HAVE RECEIVED
FROM HER FELLOW MACUA TRIBESMEN. APART FROM WHAT MAY WELL
HAVE BEEN A HEARTENING EXPERIENCE IN THE NORTH, GUMO HAS
BEGUN TO RUN INTO SOME HEAVY WEATHER ELSEWHERE IN MOZAMBIQUE.
IN ADDITION TO CONFRONTATION IN BEIRA REPORTED IN OUR TELEGRAM
335 SHE AND HER FELLOW MEMBERS HAVE BEEN SEVERELY CRITICIZED
IN PUBLIC BY DEMOCRATS OF MOZAMBIQUE AND THEIR SYMPATHIZERS.
TEMPO MAGAZINE OF MAY 19 CARRIED UNSYMPATHETIC INTERVIEW
WITH HER. AT LUNCHEON TWO WEEKS AGO, DR. DE ALMEIDA SANTOS,
WHO SINCE THEN HAS
BECOME NEW MINISTER FOR INTER-TERRITORIAL
COORDINATION IN LISBON, TOLD ME HE  THOUGHT GUMO AND DR.
SIMIAO WOULD BE FORGOTTEN IN ABOUT THREE WEEKS TIME. RUMORS
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ABOUT HER PAST LIFE ARE BEGINNING TO SURFACE; E.G., ALLEGED
QUESTIONABLE MORALS, HER POSSIBLE AFFILIATION WITH PIDE/DGS,
HER CONNECTIONS WITH CAETANO, REBELLO DE SOUZA, AND OTHER
MEMBERS OF THE PREVIOUS REGIME, HER DEFECTION FROM COREMO,
ARE ALL BEGINNING TO BE CALLED TO ACCOUNT. IT IS TOO EARLY
TO TELL WHETHER SUCH ALLEGATIONS WILL HARM OR HELP HER.
CERTAINLY, SHE CONTINUES TO DRAW LOTS OF PRESS AND RADIO
PUBLICITY AND THE ATTACKS BY DEMOCRATS AND OTHER LEFTIST

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GROUPS MAY INDICATE THEIR BELIEF THAT GUMO DOES PRESENT
SUFFICIENT CHALLENGE TO THEIR ASPIRATIONS TO BE WORTH
DISCREDITING.
VAN OSS

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